

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
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R 232254Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5007
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY SUVA

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, NZ
SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND'S REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARDS OF
THE IMF/IBRD

REF: 77 WELLINGTON 3617

1. DURING CALL ON TREASURY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
EXTERNAL ECONOMIC POLICY JOHN MARTIN TO DISCUSS IMF/IBRD
SALARY QUESTION (REPORTED SEPTEL), MARTIN EXPRESSED
CONCERN AT WHAT HE PERCEIVED AS AN IBRD STAFF ATTEMPT
TO MANEUVER NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, AND THE SMALL
PACIFIC ISLAND STATES OUT OF THEIR BOARD DIRECTOR
POSITION IN THE BANK. ISSUE WHICH PROMPTED MARTIN'S
REMARKS WAS CIRCULATION RECENTLY BY IBRD STAFF OF A
PAPER WHICH, ACCORDING TO MARTIN, SOUGHT TO INCREASE
OPEC, AFRICAN, AND LATIN AMERICAN REPRESENTATION ON
THE BANK'S BOARD AT THE EXPENSE OF THE SMALLER DC'S
SUCH AS NEW ZEALAND.

2. MARTIN SAID HE PERSONALLY RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH
U.S. OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE MET IN WASHINGTON LAST
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JULY AND WAS ASSURED THAT IT WAS USG POLICY TO SUPPORT
THE RETENTION OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF NEW ZEALAND
REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARDS OF BOTH THE IMF AND IBRD.
WHILE HE DID NOT FEEL THE TIME HAD COME TO RAISE THE
MATTER FORMALLY WITH THE U.S., HE DID WISH TO CONVEY
INFORMALLY THE VERY REAL FEELING OF UNEASE OF HIS
GOVERNMENT. THE MATTER OF THE IBRD STAFF PAPER HAS

ALREADY BEEN TAKEN UP DIRECTLY WITH MCNAMARA AND APPARENTLY RESOLVED FOR THE MOMENT TO GNZ SATISFACTION. MARTIN DID, HOWEVER, WANT AT THIS TIME TO INFORMALLY RECORD HIS HOPE THAT USG POLICY WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT NEW ZEALAND'S BOARD PARTICIPATION AS IT HAD IN THE PAST.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE ON MOVES FOR POSSIBLE REDESIGNATION OF BOARD SEATS AS WELL AS OUR POLICY TOWARD SUCH ACTION. SUCH INFORMATION WILL BE USEFUL EITHER FOR OUR OWN BACKGROUND OR FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE GNZ, AS THE DEPARTMENT FEELS APPROPRIATE. HEALY

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Message Attributes

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